Issue #10 November 2023

Assistance with COVaxON

- Grey Bruce Public Health has heard from Primary Care Providers about challenges with the provincial COVaxON Vaccination Management System.
- In response, GBPH is willing to co-ordinate/organize a webinar to serve as a "refresher" for PCPs on using COVaxON. Would you be interested in attending such a webinar (1 hour max.)? Please complete this brief survey by Nov. 3, 2023, to let us know: Survey Link.
- Primary Care Providers who need assistance with reactivating their COVaxON account can email Jordan de Jong at J.deJong@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca.

Ministry of Health, Public Health Ontario release new respiratory season assets

- The Ministry of Health has developed a new public-facing <u>fact sheet on Respiratory</u> <u>Syncytial Virus (RSV).</u>
- Ministry of Health media release: <u>Free Flu Shot and New COVID-19 Vaccines</u> <u>Available for All Ontarians Six Months of Age and Older.</u>
- PHO has launched a new <u>Ontario Respiratory Virus Tool</u>, which provides epidemiological information of respiratory virus activity in Ontario, including COVID-19, influenza and other respiratory viruses.

Canada's Chief Public Health Officer releases annual report

- The 110-page report, "Creating the Conditions for Resilient Communities: A Public Health Approach to Emergencies," discusses the state of public health in Canada.
- In it, Dr. Theresa Tam urges Canadians to reset how we think about emergencies by looking beyond the immediate response and working on the foundational conditions that keep our communities healthy and strong.
- "By taking a public health approach to emergencies, guided by health promotion and equity, we can create the conditions for resilient communities," she says.

Resources for Primary Care Professionals

 Ontario College of Family Physicians' resources on Long COVID (Post-COVID Condition. Includes Clinician Resources, such as Long COVID FAQs for family physicians, and Post COVID-19 Condition: Guidance for Primary Care.

Educational Opportunities for Primary Care Professionals

- CAMH Virtual Workshop. "Caring for persons on methadone in primary care: Toward safer, more inclusive care." Nov. 14, 2023, from noon to 1 p.m. ET. Registration Link.
 - **Workshop summary:** In the setting of an escalating overdose crisis, efforts to help family physicians feel comfortable providing comprehensive care to patients prescribed methadone are urgently needed. This interactive virtual workshop will include case presentations and facilitated participant discussion.
- November is Fall Prevention Month. <u>A Step Ahead to Fall Prevention in Older Adults</u>
 is an E-learning module from Toronto Public Health for healthcare providers who are
 interested in learning more about age-related changes, risk factors associated with
 falls, and incorporating fall prevention strategies when working with older adults.

Grey Bruce Public Health Media Releases: October 2023

- Oct. 31, 2023 <u>Latest COVID-19</u>, flu vaccines now available to everyone aged six months and up
- Oct. 4, 2023 GBPH announces first flu case of the season
- Oct. 4, 2023 GBPH reporting series of drug overdoses in recent days
- Oct. 3, 2023 GBPH launching new service to ensure equitable access to well water testing program
- Oct. 3, 2023 Mosquitoes in Grey-Bruce test positive for West Nile Virus
- Sept. 29, 2023 GBPH honouring National Day for Truth & Reconciliation
- Sept. 25, 2023 <u>Grey Bruce Public Health leads collaborative project on preventing substance use among youth</u>